

Town Administrator's Report

February 10, 2015

The areas and initiatives in which we worked and progressed since the last Regular Town Board Meeting are as follows:

Ice Rescue Revenue Generation/Agreements – We have met with four (4) organizations and entities: Coast Guard, National Park Service, Bayfield County Sheriff's Dept, and Ashland County with regard to the difficulty and challenges facing the Town regarding providing regional ice rescue services. The issue of revenues – and the need for financial assistance by those benefitting from the Town's ice rescue efforts – was the central topic of each of those meetings. (The Board has been provided memos regarding the substance and result of the meetings). It is clear, from those meetings, that the organizations are amenable to providing revenue/financial assistance, however, the form of that assistance will be variable given the restrictions and/or latitude of each organization. Briefly, the Coast Guard will accept invoices, include some subsidy to the Town in its budget request, and apply and assist in grant applications for new sled acquisition; the Park Service cannot accept invoices, but is amenable to contracting for support services; Bayfield County cannot/will not accept invoices, but is amenable to providing revenue support/subsidy to the Town for service – an agenda item will be placed on the BC Board meeting at which the Town can testify regarding the subsidy; and, Ashland County is amenable for receiving invoices for those calls for which the Ashland Fire Dept is not called out – this suggests a dispatch map with a clear line of demarcation denoting which areas the Town will cover – and invoice – and which the Ashland Fire Dept will cover. Should the Board decide and instruct, the Administrator will begin the process of configuring and submitting agreements and support materials for approval and submission to the relevant entities/organizations to secure subsidy and financial support.

Legislation and Resolution of Support – We have been in communication with the offices of both legislative representatives, Sen. Bewley and Rep. Meyers, with regard to the introduction of the bills related to the legislative correction to the Hegwood matter. All indications are that the bills – which will reflect the draft

prepared by the Legislative Research Bureau – will be introduced shortly. Upon introduction and assignment to the appropriate legislative committees, the chairs of those committees will be contacted to request that a public hearing be held – by the committee – to discuss the bill and allow for advocacy directed toward passage. In support of the bills, the Administrator drafted, and delivered to the County Administrator, a Resolution of Support which we will work to have approved by the County Zoning Committee and full County Board (a copy of the draft had been previously submitted to the Town Board). The County Administrator has been and remains supportive of the Resolution and has had the Resolution placed on the agenda of the Zoning Committee (2-11) at which the Town Administrator will appear and testify. Subsequent to the approval of the Zoning Committee, the Resolution will be brought before the full County Board (2-19) for approval, after which it will be forwarded to our legislators and accompany the information and advocacy materials dispatched to legislative committee members. This just in....***The Bill has been introduced in the Senate (SB25) and referred to committee.***

Army Corps of Engineers – Harbor Dredge Limits Expansion – Discussions were held with Dave Gerczak of the Army Corps – Detroit District – regarding the expansion of dredge limits in our harbor and the progress made on approval of those limits and application of the Design Deficiency Correction Program to provide perpetual funding for maintenance dredging of the harbor. Gerczak indicated the DDC Program was not funded this budget cycle (the La Pointe Harbor was included in the budget request). The effort was made to have the limits approved as a first-step, insofar as last fall's maintenance dredging will cover the harbor for a number of years before additional dredging will be required. We were informed that it will require Congressional action – probably a rider on an existing bill – to have the limits changed. Should the Board decide and instruct, the Administrator will work with our Congressional representatives to get the rider written and secure the dredge limit expansion. In addition to, or as an alternative, Gerczak felt that the harbor could come under the Section 107 program which would provide a fully-funded feasibility study – a 90/10 funding split on design and initial dredge – and fully-funded future maintenance dredging. We will respond appropriately as the issue becomes clearer and the preference of the Board is established.

General Issues – The Board will take up the revised compensation schedule for the EMTs and Fire Dept. 1) The EMT compensation schedule resolves the status issue with which we have contended and establishes EMT compensation in a form and fashion that passes muster for all regulatory agencies. 2) We have worked closely with the Administrative Assistant to secure all the Certificates of Insurance – from contractors and service providers – to submit to the Town auditors. 3) We have been in continual communication with the Horton Group and Gladfelter Insurance with respect to reporting, setting up claims, providing data and photos and scheduling the adjuster in the matter of the Town 2-ton truck fire – the adjuster will be here on Wednesday (2-11) and the claim should be concluded shortly thereafter.